

Dependency Theory

COMPSCI 2DB3: Databases

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Recap

- ▶ The Entity-Relationship Model.
High-level modeling of data.
- ▶ SQL: The Structured Query Language.
Querying relational data in practice.
- ▶ The Relational Data Model and SQL.
Creating relational tables from high-level models.
- ▶ The Relational Algebra.
Abstract easy-to-manipulate querying of relational data.

Outlook

- ▶ Dependency Theory.
- ▶ Decomposition and Normal Forms.
- ▶ Concurrency Control.

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Topics of Interest

Next step: Formalizing constraints

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How can we reason about (typical) constraints?

Warning: Proofs incoming

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If I go too fast—please press the brake.

E.g., weird notation, steps I overlooked, ...

Let us start with an example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

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Question: Rate my table!

Vote at <https://strawpoll.com/dycss6a57>.

Or: go to <https://strawpoll.live> and use the code **277712**.

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Students with the same **sid** are the same student.
- ▶ Attribute **birthdate** determines **age**.
Students with the same **birthdate** have the same **age**.
- ▶ Each **program** is organized by a **department**.
Students in the same **program** belong to the same **department**.

Functional dependency over relation schema **R**

$X \longrightarrow Y$ (with X and Y attributes of **R**).

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“Attributes X determine Y ”:

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Formal

Let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

For every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$, we have:

$$(r_1[x_1] = r_2[x_1] \wedge \cdots \wedge r_1[x_n] = r_2[x_n]) \implies (r_1[y_1] = r_2[y_1] \wedge \cdots \wedge r_1[y_m] = r_2[y_m]).$$

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$X \rightarrow Y$ (with X and Y attributes of \mathbf{R}).

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- ▶ Attribute **birthdate** determines **age**.
“**birthdate** → **age**”.
- ▶ Each **program** is organized by a **department**.
“**program** → **department**”.

Let us reason with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program → age, department” hold?

Vote at <https://strawpoll.com/1284xkha3>.

Or: go to <https://strawpoll.live> and use the code **535106**.

Let us reason with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program → age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations B (birthdate), P (program), A (age), and D (department).

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student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \rightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations B (birthdate), P (program), A (age), and D (department).

By definition: we have $BP \rightarrow AD$ if we have $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP] \implies r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$ for every instance \mathcal{I} of **student** and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$.

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Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of instance \mathcal{I} of **student** such that $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$.

(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$ holds.

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By $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$, we have $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$ and $r_1[P] = r_2[P]$.

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Using $B \rightarrow A$ and $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$, we conclude $r_1[A] = r_2[A]$.

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By $r_1[A] = r_2[A]$ and $r_1[D] = r_2[D]$, we have $r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$.

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Implication of dependencies

Definition

Let \mathfrak{S} be a set of dependencies and D be a dependency over relation schema \mathbf{R} .

We say that \mathfrak{S} *implies* D if, for every instance I of \mathbf{R} we have,

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Example

- ▶ $\mathcal{S} = \{\text{“birthdate} \rightarrow \text{age}\text{”, “program} \rightarrow \text{department}\text{”}\}$.
- ▶ $D = \text{“birthdate, program} \rightarrow \text{age, department”}$.

We have $\mathcal{S} \models D$ (proven on previous slide).

Simplifying proofs: Using inference rules

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Example: The Union rule

Let X, Y, Z be sets of attributes of relation schema \mathbf{R} . We have

$$\text{if } X \rightarrow Y \text{ and } X \rightarrow Z, \text{ then } X \rightarrow YZ.$$

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By definition: we have $X \rightarrow YZ$ if we have $r_1[X] = r_2[X] \implies r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ for every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$.

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Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} such that $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$.

(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ holds.

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Using $X \rightarrow Y$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$.

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Using $X \rightarrow Y$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$.

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By $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$ and $r_1[Z] = r_2[Z]$, we have $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$.

Hence, $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ holds.

Using an inference rules: the Union rule

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Prove $\{\text{"sid} \rightarrow \text{name}", \text{"sid} \rightarrow \text{age"}\} \models \text{"sid} \rightarrow \text{name, age"}$.

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The Union rule: if $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$, then $X \rightarrow YZ$.

Apply the Union rule with $X = \{\text{sid}\}$, $Y = \{\text{name}\}$, and $Z = \{\text{age}\}$.

Which interference rules do we need?

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- ▶ The Union-3 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1$ and $X \rightarrow Y_2$ and $X \rightarrow Y_3$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2Y_3$.
- ▶ The Union-4 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_4$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4$.
- ▶ The Union-5 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_5$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4Y_5$.
- ▶ The Union-6 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_6$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4Y_5Y_6$.
- ⋮
- ▶ The Union- i rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_i$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1Y_2\dots Y_i$.

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We can make as many as we want.

- ▶ The Union-3 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1$ and $X \rightarrow Y_2$ and $X \rightarrow Y_3$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3$.
- ▶ The Union-4 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_4$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4$.
- ▶ The Union-5 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_5$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5$.
- ▶ The Union-6 rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_6$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5 Y_6$.
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- ▶ The Union- i rule: if $X \rightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \rightarrow Y_i$, then $X \rightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_i$.

These rules are *pointless*: We can do the same with the Union rule!

Criteria for a good set of inference rules

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Can we derive D from \mathcal{S} using the rules whenever $\mathcal{S} \models D$ holds?

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Independent We need every rule for some derivations.

Are there any facts that hold we cannot derive after removing a rule?

Armstrong's Axioms

A set of three good inference rules for functional dependencies.

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Reflexivity If $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \rightarrow Y$.

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Transitivity If $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y \rightarrow Z$, then $X \rightarrow Z$.

Armstrong's Axioms

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Reflexivity If $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \rightarrow Y$.

Augmentation If $X \rightarrow Y$ then $XZ \rightarrow YZ$ for any Z .

Transitivity If $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y \rightarrow Z$, then $X \rightarrow Z$.

These inference rules are sound, complete, and independent.

Let us use Armstrong's Axioms with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program → age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations A (age), P (program), B (birthdate), and D (department).

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Prove $\{B \rightarrow A, P \rightarrow D\} \models BP \rightarrow AD$.

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Prove $\{B \rightarrow A, P \rightarrow D\} \models BP \rightarrow AD$.

Assume $B \rightarrow A$ and $P \rightarrow D$.

(proof details)

Hence, $BP \rightarrow AD$.

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Prove $\{B \rightarrow A, P \rightarrow D\} \models BP \rightarrow AD$.

Assume $B \rightarrow A$ and $P \rightarrow D$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $B \rightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \rightarrow AP$.

Hence, $BP \rightarrow AD$.

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Assume $B \rightarrow A$ and $P \rightarrow D$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $B \rightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \rightarrow AP$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $P \rightarrow D$ with A to derive $AP \rightarrow AD$.

Hence, $BP \rightarrow AD$.

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student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \rightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations A (age), P (program), B (birthdate), and D (department).

Prove $\{B \rightarrow A, P \rightarrow D\} \models BP \rightarrow AD$.

Assume $B \rightarrow A$ and $P \rightarrow D$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $B \rightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \rightarrow AP$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $P \rightarrow D$ with A to derive $AP \rightarrow AD$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $BP \rightarrow AP$ and $AP \rightarrow AD$ to derive $BP \rightarrow AD$.

Hence, $BP \rightarrow AD$.

Adding Union to Armstrong's Axioms

We will show that the Union rule is sound, but *not* independent.

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(proof details)

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To prove: $\{X \rightarrow Y, X \rightarrow Z\} \models X \rightarrow YZ$.

Assume $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $X \rightarrow Y$ with X to derive $X \rightarrow XY$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow YZ$.

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Assume $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$.

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Apply *Augmentation* on $X \rightarrow Z$ with Y to derive $XY \rightarrow YZ$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow YZ$.

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Apply *Augmentation* on $X \rightarrow Y$ with X to derive $X \rightarrow XY$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $X \rightarrow Z$ with Y to derive $XY \rightarrow YZ$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $X \rightarrow XY$ and $XY \rightarrow YZ$ to derive $X \rightarrow YZ$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow YZ$.

The Decomposition rule

if $X \rightarrow YZ$, then $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$.

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To prove: $\{X \rightarrow YZ\} \models X \rightarrow Y$ and $\{X \rightarrow YZ\} \models X \rightarrow Z$.

Assume $X \rightarrow YZ$.

Apply *Reflexivity* on $Y \subseteq YZ$ to derive $YZ \rightarrow Y$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow Y$

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Apply *Reflexivity* on $Y \subseteq YZ$ to derive $YZ \rightarrow Y$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $X \rightarrow YZ$ and $YZ \rightarrow Y$ to derive $X \rightarrow Y$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow Y$ ($X \rightarrow Z$ is analogous).

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To prove: $\{X \rightarrow YZ\} \models X \rightarrow Y$ and $\{X \rightarrow YZ\} \models X \rightarrow Z$.

Assume $X \rightarrow YZ$.

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Apply *Transitivity* on $X \rightarrow YZ$ and $YZ \rightarrow Z$ to derive $X \rightarrow Z$.

Hence, $X \rightarrow Y$ ($X \rightarrow Z$ is analogous).

Functional dependencies and the attribute closure

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathcal{S} and a functional dependency $X \rightarrow Y$.

- ▶ Can we automatically verify $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow Y$?
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$\text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$

Compute the set of all attributes y for which $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow y$ holds.

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Correctness proof!

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If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$ then $\mathcal{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$.

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- ▶ Does CLOSURE terminate?
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If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$ then $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow y$.

If y is an attribute and $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$.

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Soundness If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$ then $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow y$.

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4: **return** closure .

Proof: CLOSURE is sound

“If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ then $\mathfrak{S} \models X \rightarrow y$.”

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“If y is an attribute and $\mathfrak{S} \models X \rightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.”

Proof by Contradiction

Assume $\mathfrak{S} \models X \rightarrow y$ and $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

(proof details)

A contradiction. Hence, our original assumption was wrong,
and we must have $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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Make \mathcal{I} with rows r_1, r_2 such that $r_1[z] = r_2[z]$ if and only if $z \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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c_1	c_2	\dots	c_n	o_1	o_2	\dots	o_m
1	1	\dots	1	0	0	\dots	0
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Let $A \rightarrow B \in \mathcal{S}$. Two cases: $A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$ and $A \not\subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$.

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$A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$: Line 3 of CLOSURE (*closure* := *closure* $\cup B$).

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$X \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$, $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$. Hence, \mathcal{I} does not satisfy $X \rightarrow y$.

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We conclude that $\mathcal{S} \models X \rightarrow y$ *cannot* hold.

A contradiction. Hence, our original assumption was wrong, and we must have $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$.

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Yes. Verify whether $Y \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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Yes. For every X , compute $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$.

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Yes. For every X , compute $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$.

We typically write X^+ to denote $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathcal{S}, X)$ if \mathcal{S} is clear from the context.

Closure of functional dependencies

Definition

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$$\mathfrak{S}^+ = \{X \rightarrow Y \mid \mathfrak{S} \models X \rightarrow Y\}.$$

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How: Compute **CLOSURE**(\mathfrak{S}, X) for every $X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.

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I will use shorthand notations A (age), P (program), B (birthdate), and D (department).

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- ▶ We have $X \rightarrow Y$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $SX \rightarrow Y$ for all $X, Y \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $BX \rightarrow AY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $PX \rightarrow DY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $BPX \rightarrow ADY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.

Minimal Cover for functional dependencies

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Let \mathfrak{S} be a set of functional dependencies.

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(\mathfrak{S} and S describe the *same* functional dependencies).
2. All functional dependencies $X \rightarrow Y \in S$ must have $|Y| = 1$.
(Functional dependencies in S are *minimalistic*).
3. For every $R \subset S$, we have $R^+ \neq S^+$.
(All of S is necessary to describe the *same* functional dependencies as \mathfrak{S}).

Beyond functional dependencies

- ▶ Multivalued dependencies.
- ▶ Join dependencies.
- ▶ Inclusion dependencies.
- ▶

Multivalued dependency over relation schema **R**

$X \multimap\!\!> Y$ (with X and Y attributes of **R**; Z the remaining attributes of **R**).

Informal

“Given a value for the X attributes, the values for attributes Y and Z are independent.”

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If two rows in an instance of **R** have the same values for attributes X ,
Then there must be a third row with the same values for attributes X , and

- ▶ the values for attributes Y from the first row, and
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Formal

For every instance \mathcal{I} of **R** and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ with $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$,
there exists a row $r_3 \in \mathcal{I}$ with $r_1[XY] = r_3[XY]$ and $r_2[XZ] = r_3[XZ]$.

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x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
1	2	A	B	α	β
1	2	C	D	γ	δ

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	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
$r_1 \longrightarrow$	1	2	A	B	α	β
$r_2 \longrightarrow$	1	2	C	D	γ	δ
	1	2	A	B	γ	δ

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	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
$r_2 \longrightarrow$	1	2	A	B	α	β
$r_1 \longrightarrow$	1	2	C	D	γ	δ
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	1	2	C	D	α	β

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=

x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2
1	2	A	B
1	2	C	D

\bowtie

x_1	x_2	z_1	z_2
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An example of multivalued dependencies

course	student	TA
Programming	Celeste	Alicia
Programming	Frieda	Alicia
Programming	Celeste	Dafni
Programming	Frieda	Dafni
Databases	Bo	Eva
Databases	Dafni	Eva
Databases	Bo	Alicia
Databases	Dafni	Alicia

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The enrolled students of a course are *independent* of the TAs.

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The enrolled students of a course are *independent* of the TAs.

“course →→ student” and “course →→ TA”.

Reasoning with functional and multivalued dependencies

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Armstrong's Axioms.

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Complementation If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$, then $X \twoheadrightarrow Z$ (with Z all attributes of \mathbf{R} not in X and Y).

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Coalescence If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $V \rightarrow W$ such that $Y \cap V = \emptyset$ and $W \subseteq Y$,
then $X \rightarrow W$.

Soundness of the Coalescence rule

If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $V \rightarrow W$ such that $Y \cap V = \emptyset$ and $W \subseteq Y$, then $X \rightarrow W$.

Proof

Let \mathbf{R} be a relational schema that satisfies the premise of the Coalescence rule.

By definition: we have $X \rightarrow W$ if we have $r_1[X] = r_2[X] \implies r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ for every pair of rows r_1, r_2 in every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} .

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Proof

Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of an instance \mathcal{I} of a relational schema that satisfies the premise of the Coalescence rule such that $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$.

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(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ holds.

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As $W \subseteq Y$ and $r_3[XY] = r_1[XY]$, we have $r_3[W] = r_1[W]$.

Hence, $r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ holds.

Join dependencies over relational schema \mathbf{R}

$\bowtie\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ (with X_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, attributes of \mathbf{R})

Informal

“The projections $\pi_{X_i}(\mathbf{R})$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, are independent of each other.”

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For any instance of \mathbf{R} , we obtain exactly that instance if we:

- ▶ first break-up the instance into its projections on X_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, and
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$X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ is equivalent to $\bowtie\{XY, XZ\}$ (with Z all attributes of \mathbf{R} not in X and Y).

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Formal

We must have

$$\pi_{X_1}(\mathbf{R}) \bowtie \pi_{X_2}(\mathbf{R}) \bowtie \dots \bowtie \pi_{X_n}(\mathbf{R}) = \mathbf{R}.$$

An example of join dependencies

course (C)	student (S)	TA (T)	Instructor (I)
Databases	Bo	Eva	Celeste
Databases	Dafni	Eva	Celeste
Databases	Bo	Alicia	Celeste
Databases	Dafni	Alicia	Celeste
Databases	Bo	Eva	Frieda
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Databases	Bo	Alicia	Frieda
Databases	Dafni	Alicia	Frieda

The enrolled students, the TAs, and the Instructors are *independent*.

$$\bowtie\{CS, CT, CI\}.$$

Inclusion dependencies over relational schemas \mathbf{R}_1 and \mathbf{R}_2

$\mathbf{R}_1[X] \subseteq \mathbf{R}_2[Y]$ (with X attributes of \mathbf{R}_1 , Y attributes of \mathbf{R}_2)

Informal

“Values for attributes X in \mathbf{R}_1 must also occur as values for attributes Y in \mathbf{R}_2 ”.

Inclusion dependencies over relational schemas \mathbf{R}_1 and \mathbf{R}_2

$$\mathbf{R}_1[X] \subseteq \mathbf{R}_2[Y] \text{ (with } X \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_1, Y \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_2\text{)}$$

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“Values for attributes X in \mathbf{R}_1 must also occur as values for attributes Y in \mathbf{R}_2 ”.

We must have

$$\pi_X(\mathbf{R}_1) \subseteq \pi_Y(\mathbf{R}_2).$$

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Generalization of foreign key constraints.

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Generalization of foreign key constraints.

Formal

For every instance \mathcal{I}_1 of \mathbf{R}_1 and every row $r_1 \in \mathcal{I}_1$,
there exists a row in instance \mathcal{I}_2 of \mathbf{R}_2 with $r_1[X] = r_2[Y]$.

An example of inclusion dependencies

courses		
<u>cid</u>	title	lecturer
2	Discrete Mathematics	3
3	Databases	2

faculty		
<u>fid</u>	name	rank
2	Bo	Assistant
3	Celeste	Associate

An example of inclusion dependencies

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<u>cid</u>	title	lecturer
2	Discrete Mathematics	3
3	Databases	2

faculty		
<u>fid</u>	name	rank
2	Bo	Assistant
3	Celeste	Associate

courses[lecturer] ⊆ faculty[fid].

Next: Decomposition and normal forms

How can we use dependency theory to:

- ▶ validate the quality of relational schemas,
- ▶ improve the quality of relational schemas.